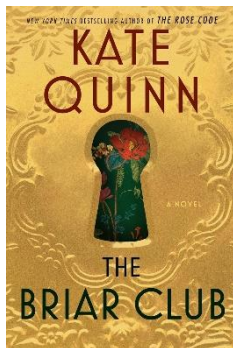


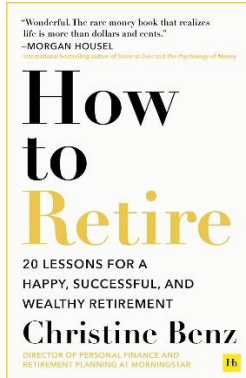
The Everything War: Amazon's Ruthless Quest to Own the World and Remake Corporate Power

Why I enjoyed reading this book: Imagine if you happened to catch your best friend cheating on their spouse. Would you view them the same as you did before you found out about the affair? That is essentially how I felt after reading this book and learning how Amazon became so big so fast. Amazon is (was?) my best friend. They always had exactly what I wanted and, even better, they could ship it to me next day. Now...



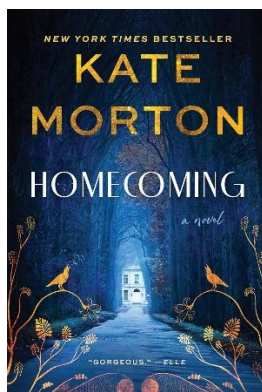
The Briar Club.

Why I enjoyed reading this book: The main characters in this story live in an all-female boarding house in Washington DC during the 1950's McCarthy red scare era. Each of them have troubled pasts, but who would be willing to murder someone in order to keep their secrets hidden?



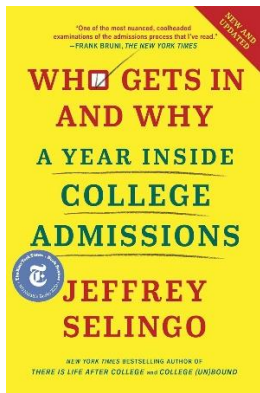
How to Retire: 20 Lessons for a Happy, Successful, and Wealthy Retirement.

Why I enjoyed reading this book: No one enjoys being lectured (i.e. eat your vegetables and brush your teeth) which is how I feel most retirement books are all about. This one is different. 20 chapters, each one with a different focus such as "relationships later in life", "how spending changes in retirement", "retirement income" and "how to have no regrets at the end." Read one, five or all 20. Find the chapter or chapters that you care about the most.



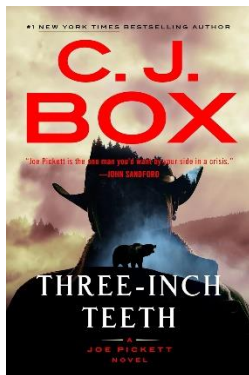
Homecoming

Why I enjoyed reading this book: The main character, Jess, is a journalist living in London. She gets news that her grandmother, who lives in Australia, fell and is now in the ICU. Upon arriving in Australia and cleaning up grandma's house, Jess discovers her family was involved in a deadly tragedy almost 60 years before. How far would you go to protect those you love? How far would you go to uncover the truth?



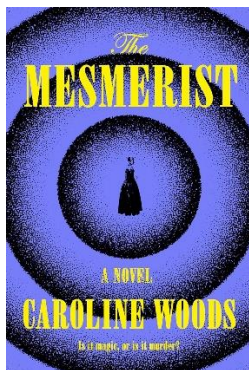
Who Gets in and Why: A Year Inside College Admissions.

Why I enjoyed reading this book: Applying for college is stressful for both students as well as parents. Are grades more important than strength of schedule? How do you make your essay stand out in the crowd? How do you know if you are on the right path? The author was embedded in three admissions offices: a select private school, a flagship public school and a liberal arts college and helps pull back the curtain on all three. I only wish I read this earlier.



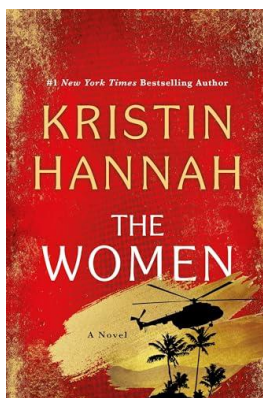
Three-Inch Teeth.

Why I enjoyed reading this book: The author has written over 25 books, and this is his latest. Big Sky on ABC and Joe Pickett on Paramount+ are TV shows based on his novels. The villain in this story, Dallas Cates, was just released from prison with six names on his list and Joe Pickett is one of them. Although this is a fun stand-alone book, you may enjoy it better if you read "Endangered" first since that book is where the author introduces the villain and the reasons why these two men are hunting each other years later becomes easier to understand.



The Mesmerist

Why I enjoyed reading this book: I am a big fan of historical fiction which is why I picked this one up, but the book was more than just a fun history lesson. It was also a great thriller/ murder mystery / who done it all set in Minneapolis in the mid 1890's where the nation's first serial killer was at work.



The Women

Why I enjoyed reading this book: My grandfather fought in World War II in the Battle of the Bulge and came home after the war with PTSD. They didn't call it that back then, if they acknowledged it at all, but it did have a lasting impact on him and his family. This novel is a historical fiction told from the perspective of a female nurse in Vietnam. She, and many others like her, may not have fought on the front lines, but you can't deal with the death and trauma of war all day and go home the same person you left as. My wife regularly reminds me that if I only look at life from the male perspective, then I am missing out on half the picture.